

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by inserting the replacement paragraph below at the fourth paragraph on page 1.

[0004] The invention concerns a method for protecting a file with proprietary content against ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying by file sharing by other people's computers which are pooled to form an internet file sharing site and which make the file available in the form of randomly stored data records, each of which includes part of the proprietary content and also metadata which inter alia ~~consist of~~ include at least one hash ID and, e.g., the title.

Please amend the specification by inserting the replacement paragraph below at the twelfth paragraph on page 3.

[00012] 1.3 generating a data record which is modified from the data record provided and which includes at least the saved hash ID and replacement content data linked to the ~~latter~~ saved hash ID.

Please amend the specification by inserting the following words at the top of page 4 above paragraph [0014]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the specification by inserting the replacement paragraph below at the 5th paragraph on page 1 and 2:

[0005] Considerable economic damage is caused to the owners of rights in particular to music and film works as well as games, due to ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying of the electronic versions of these works. A large proportion of ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying takes place by means of internet file sharing sites which work by the peer-to-peer (P2P) method. The commonest are central P2P file sharing sites in which on (central) servers are stored lists of contents available for exchange and the IP addresses of the computers subscribing to the file sharing sites, from which these contents can be downloaded. Upon a search inquiry, a subscribing computer receives from the answering server(s) a list with the IP addresses of those other subscribing computers which have stored a file with the desired content and are providing it for sharing. The searching computer then sets up connections to the providing computers and downloads the file with the desired content directly from the providing computers. In the case of ~~decentralised~~ decentralized P2P file sharing sites, upon search inquiries the subscribing computers also assume the role of the server for the searching computer and either answer that the file with the desired content is ready for downloading or, if not, pass on the search inquiry to other subscribing computers which if necessary in turn pass on until the file with the desired content is found and the searching computer can download it from the subscribing computer concerned.

Please amend the specification by inserting the replacement paragraph below at the 7th and 8th paragraphs on pages 2 and 3:

[0007] It is known that at least some owners of rights are trying to make this kind of ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying of their original files with proprietary contents difficult by

participating in the relevant file sharing sites as providers, this being with files which apparently have the desired, proprietary content, but in actual fact contain only noise, parts of the title or the like. Although these unusable files, because they cannot be ~~recognised~~ recognized as such with the aid of their metadata, broadcast themselves in the same way as the original files on the subscribing computers logged on to the file sharing site concerned, and are entered in the lists of the file sharing site servers, only the time needed for ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying of the original file can be prolonged by this so-called flooding method, because the user of the searching computer which, after downloading a file including at least one unusable data record, ~~recognises~~ recognizes this file as generally unusable, will start a new search and sooner or later obtain the desired original file from other file sharing site computers.

[0008] It is the object of the invention to provide a method of the kind indicated hereinbefore, which offers improved protection of files against ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying by a P2P method.

Please amend the specification by inserting the replacement paragraph below at the 14th and 15th paragraphs on page 4:

[00014] The above-mentioned other people's computers can be both file sharing site servers and, particularly in the case of the ~~decentralised~~ decentralized P2P method, computers subscribing to the internet file sharing site concerned. Accordingly, provision of the modified data record as mentioned in step 1.4 above may be confined to the information that the requested file or part of it is ready for downloading from one's own computer, or provision may include release of downloading of the modified data record.

[00015] If the user of the other person's computer visually or acoustically tracks downloading of the file sought and requested by him, he will establish that he is receiving an unusable file instead of the desired file and so repeat the process or start a new search, If the user of the computer does not track downloading, in his place the file sharing program of his computer will ~~recognise~~ recognize, at the latest on completion of downloading, that the downloaded file includes at least one data record which has been modified from the original data record and so download the file again, or at least the data record concerned, or search for another (file sharing site) computer which will provide at least the data record concerned. Because the modified data record, without being ~~recognisable~~ recognizable as such at the outset, is available from many other computers subscribing to the file sharing site under supposedly the correct hash ID, there is a high probability that the searching and requesting computer will again download the modified data record, ~~recognise~~ recognize it as modified, download it again or search, etc. After a certain time the user of this computer will break off the search for the original file.

Please amend the specification by inserting the replacement paragraph below at the 25th and 26th paragraphs on page 6.

[00025] Inquiries by other people's computers about the file to be protected, or alternatively just retrievals of the modified data record, can be logged, this being in anonymous form, in the event that this is necessary for reasons of data protection. The log can be processed under any classification aspects, that is, not only for every protected file, but also, if the method is performed by a third party on behalf of several owners of rights, according to owner of rights

who as a rule has an interest in the protection of more than one file with proprietary content against ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying.

[00026] Furthermore, the method can be designed such that searching for the content to be protected is done only up to a predetermined expiry date, because in many cases, e.g. when the proprietary content is a current pop song, the interest in ~~unauthorised~~ unauthorized copying of a file is limited to a distinct length of time.